

## **PSC NEWS**Missouri Public Service Commission

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OCTOBER 14, 2005** 

## MEDIA REMINDER PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING IN GREENWOOD ON REQUEST TO MODIFY THE KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN CALLING AREA PLAN

JEFFERSON CITY--The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Greenwood**, **Missouri on October 18**, **2005**, to receive customer comment on a request to modify the Kansas City Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan. The Office of the Public Counsel is seeking to have the Greenwood exchange moved from an optional Tier 3 exchange in the Kansas City MCA plan to a mandatory Tier 2 exchange.

The local public hearing will be held on October 18, 2005, at the Greenwood Elementary School Gymnasium, 805 West Main Street. An information question and answer session will be held from 5:30 pm until 6:00 pm. The local public hearing starts at 6:00 pm and will continue until every member of the public in attendance has had an opportunity to testify, or until 8:00 pm, whichever is earlier.

The public hearing will be held in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

MCA is a telephone service allowing for expanded calling in the Kansas City metropolitan area. For a flat monthly rate, subscribing customers can call other MCA subscribers in certain exchanges in the metropolitan area on a toll free basis.

If Public Counsel's request is granted, MCA would become a mandatory service and would be included in every Greenwood exchange customer's phone bill. Public Counsel indicated that it believed a mandatory per month charge not to exceed \$2.00 a month for all residential customers and \$3.00 a month for all business customers in the Greenwood exchange would be reasonable. SBC Missouri opposes Public Counsel's proposal, arguing that the proposed surcharge is not sufficient to compensate it for the cost of the service.

The Office of the Public Counsel states the Greenwood exchange is part of the community of interest with not only the Kansas City metropolitan area, but it is within the same community of interest as Lee's Summit. They believe Greenwood and Lee's Summit should be within the same tier and have expanded toll-free calling between those exchanges.